

Boswell Briefing...

By Congressman Leonard Boswell

Iowa deserve equality in medicare

Medicare has had a significant impact on the well-being of seniors in our state since its inception. Initially created to serve as a resource to fight poverty among our nation's seniors, Medicare has done just that in reducing the number of seniors in our state living below the poverty line. However, the system faces many challenges.

Iowa's Medicare reimbursement rates are the lowest in the nation. I am fighting to correct this problem to ensure our hospitals and health care providers can continue to offer the high quality health care Iowans deserve and to which they have become accustomed. Iowans can not be short changed on care because the current reimbursement system is unfair. Because of this, I, along with Congressman Tom Osborne of Nebraska, introduced the Medicare Fairness in Reimbursement (FAIR) Act in the House which would raise the Medicare reimbursement rates for Iowa's health care providers. Together, we are working to build a coalition in Congress to stop this unfair practice.

It is no secret that Iowans deserve and receive some of the best care in the nation. Iowa's

health care providers were recently ranked among the best in the nation for quality of care. I applaud Iowa's health care professionals for providing outstanding care while being hamstrung by the low reimbursement rates. The national average for the estimated benefit payment per enrollee is \$5,490 and in Iowa it is \$3,053. The FAIR Act ensures no state receives more than five percent above or below the national average.

Iowans pay the same taxes as seniors in other states, yet Iowa's reimbursement rate are well below the national average.

Although Iowa's doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals continue to provide the best care in the nation, they cannot continue to offer this level of care without equal funding from Medicare. I am committed to eliminating this discrimination and providing fair treatment for Iowa's seniors and health care system.

If you have comments or are having difficulty with a federal agency call my office toll-free 1-888-432-1984.
